

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05234 110747Z  
ACTION SS-25

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P 091100Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9602  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY  
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

S E C R E T BEIRUT 5234

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR MARR UNSC IS LE XF  
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON

1. THE GOL IS IN EXTREMIS. WHILE THERE ARE STILL POLITICAL PRESSURES WITHIN THE GOL TO REASSERT ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE SOUTH, IT IS STILL ANOMALOUS FOR IT TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO DO SO AT A TIME WHEN IT CAN NOT ASSERT EFFECTIVE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CENTER OF ITS OWN CAPITAL, WHICH IS STILL WRACKED BY NIGHTLY ARTILLERY EXCHANGES. IN VIEW OF OUR PRESENT LOW STOCK WITH THE GOL ON THE ISSUE OF THE SOUTH, WE SUGGEST THAT FOR THE MOMENT IT BE LEFT UP TO THE U.N. TO AUTHORIZE UNIFIL TO PUT FORWARD THE IDEA OF THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL PRESENCE AND POSSIBILITY OF ASSIGNING SMALL GOL UNITS TO UNIFIL DETACHMENTS. IT SHOULD NOT PRESENTED TO THE GOL AS A PROPOSAL COMING FROM OR ENDORSED BY THE USG.

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2. CONCEPT OF RECOMMENDING TO THE GOL THAT THE LATTER HIRE SOME LARGE-SCALE CARO-CARRYING HELICOPTERS FROM EUROPE IS PROBABLY NON-STARTER FOR SECURITY AND POLITICAL REASONS. THE GOL COULD CERTAINLY FIND THE MONEY FOR SUCH AN OPERATION. THE UN COULD WORK OUT WITH THE PARTIES SOME TEMPORARY DISTINGUISHING COLORING OF SUCH AIRCRAFT FOR THIS PURPOSE, SUCH AS ALL-WHITE

WITH LARGE "UN" LETTERING OR WHATEVER ELSE IS DEEMED APPROPRIATE AFTER NEGOTIATIONS. (NOTE THAT IN 1967 WE PUT SPECIAL MARKINGS ON U.S. AIRCRAFT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE OUR EVACUATION FROM AMMAN). THIS WILL NOT PREVENT CHIDIAC AND HIS MEN FROM FIRING AT AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION, AND ANY EUROPEAN COMPANY WHICH LET ITS HELICOPTERS FOR SUCH PURPOSE WOULD BE TAKING RISK WE SUSPECT THEY WOULD FIND UNACCEPTABLE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, SUCH A GIMMICK WOULD BE A GOL ADMISSION OF FAILURE, OR INABILITY, TO ASSERT SOVEREIGNTY IN MINDS OF MANY LEBANESE.

3. IF ALL ELSE FAILS, AND WE ARE REALLY INTENT ON GETTING LEBANESE TO MOVE, WE COULD STILL CONSIDER OFFERING USN OR USAF CARGO-CARRYING HELICOPTERS TO THE GOL FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE BRITISH HAVE OFFERED THE USE OF THEIR CYPRUS AIR BASES AS THEIR MAIN LOGISTICAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNIFIL, AND WE COULD MAKE A SPECIAL REQUEST TO THEM FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE AS BASES FOR SUCH HELICOPTERS. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NEVER COMMENTED ON OUR PROPOSAL FOR THE USE OF U.S. HELICOPTERS FOR THIS PURPOSE AS SET FORTH IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF BEIRUT 4708 OF AUGUST 15. THIS WAS NOT A WHIMSICAL OR AFTER-THOUGHT SUGGESTION, BUT CONCLUSION WHICH BOTH AMBASSADOR AND DCM REACHED DURING SIMULTANEOUS SEPARATE PERIODS OF COGITATION. SIXTH FLEET AND OUR ABILITY TO MOVE USAF TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT QUICKLY TO THIS AREA ARE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT CARDS USG HOLDS IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. WE  
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ASSUME WE COULD PREVAIL ON ISRAELIS TO KEEP CHIDIAC FROM FIRING ON OUR AIRCRAFT. FACT THAT U.S. IS INVOLVED WOULD PROBABLY COMPENSATE FOR FACT THAT MOVEMENT IS BY AIR.

4. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, NOT DISCUSSED THIS IDEA WITH GOL AND WOULD NOT WISH TO DO SO UNTIL IT HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY STAFFED OUT. EMBASSY POLOFF BELIEVES IT WOULD BE VERY UNWISE TO USE U.S. HELICOPTERS OR TO MOVE SIXTH FLEET TO THE AREA.  
PARKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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